

Testimony of

**Joann Hogan**

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Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

Of all of these line items, I am most excited about two of them. First is that CT will raise the kindergarten start date. Our kindergarten expectations have so drastically changed in the past several years that the kindergarten classroom now operates more like the first grade room of just a few years ago. Our expecting first grade work out of a four year old is professionally irresponsible. Second, the return of play based learning for our younger students would bring back their ability to learn how to explore and problem solve with confidence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

